

Claims:

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1. A method of enabling and disabling equipment in response to payments being timely made, comprising the steps:

- a) computing a payment due deadline;
- b) generating a reference code which corresponds to said deadline;
- c) providing said reference code to a comparator;
- d) receiving an additional code;
- e) passing said additional code to said comparator;
- f) comparing said additional code with said reference code;
- g) disabling said equipment if agreement between said additional code and said reference code is not detected prior to said payment due deadline; and
- h) enabling said equipment if agreement between said additional code and said reference code is detected.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said computing of a payment due deadline further comprises computing a payment deadline in agreement with terms of a loan formula having parameters selected from the group consisting of: total number of payments, payment period, grace period, start date, and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said computing a payment due deadline step is performed in an initialization process where a host computing apparatus is connected to a client computing apparatus, the host computing apparatus providing the client computing apparatus with a database including a plurality of payment due deadline data elements.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said computing a payment due deadline is performed by a control module periodically throughout the life of the loan.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a reference code occurs in an initialization process wherein a set of reference codes are computed together and provided to an apparatus as a data set.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein generating a reference code occurs in a control module periodically.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving an additional code includes receiving an additional code via a user interface, said user interface conveying said additional code to a control module.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing step includes determining if a correspondence between said additional code and said reference code exist.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein said disabling said equipment causes a critical system of said equipment to be disabled.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein said disabling step partially disables said equipment.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling step releases a disabled critical system from its disabled state.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling step leaves an operable critical system in an operable condition.
13. A system for enabling and disabling equipment in response to timely payments being made comprising:  
a disabling module connected to said equipment;

a control module in communication with said disabling module; and  
means for periodically receiving a code and transmitting said code to said  
control module.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein said control module comprises:  
5 a comparator; and  
a reference code providing module, said comparator being operable for  
comparing reference codes with received codes and triggering events in response  
thereto, and  
said reference code providing module being operable for periodically  
10 providing reference codes to said comparator wherein said reference codes  
correspond to payments which are to be made.

- c 15. The system of claim 14, wherein said means for periodically receiving a  
code is a user interface whereby a user causes the interface to send a code to a  
control module.

- 15 c 16. The system of claim 15, wherein said user interface is in electronic  
communication with said control module.

- c 17. The system of claim 16, wherein said user interface is a keypad which  
converts tactile input to digital code.

- c 18. The system of claim 14, wherein said means for periodically receiving a  
20 code is an automatic system which operates without user input at the system.

- c 19. The system of claim 18, wherein said automatic system includes a modem  
and telephone communication link.

c 20. The system of claim 18, wherein said automatic system includes a radio frequency receiver.

c 21. The system of claim 13, wherein said equipment is a vehicle.

c 22. The system of claim 21, wherein said disabling module disables an ignition  
5 system of said vehicle.

23. A method for enabling and disabling equipment comprising the steps of:  
computing at least one deadline;  
generating a first code for each at least one deadline;  
receiving a second code;  
10 comparing said first code with said second code;  
disabling said equipment if said comparing step determines that said first  
code and said second code are not in agreement prior to said at least one deadline;  
and  
enabling said equipment if said comparing step determines that said first  
15 code and said second code are in agreement.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein said deadline corresponds with a payment  
due date for a loan or lease agreement.

- (I) 25. The method of claim 23, wherein each first code is unique.

c 26. The method of claim 23, wherein said second code is received from a user  
20 interface.

- (I) 27. The method of claim 23, wherein said second code is received from a  
wireline interface.

— (I) 28. The method of claim 23, wherein said second code is received from a wireless interface.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein said disabling step disables a critical system of said equipment.

5 30. The method of claim 23, wherein said disabling step partially disables said equipment.

— (I) 31. The method of claim 23, wherein said receiving step receives said second code from a portable device.

32. The method of claim 23, wherein said equipment is a vehicle.

10 33. The method of claim 32, wherein said disabling step disables an ignition system of said vehicle.

(I) 34. A system for enabling and disabling equipment comprising:  
a disabling module connected to said equipment;  
a control module in communication with said disabling module; and  
15 means for periodically receiving a code and transmitting said code to said control module,  
wherein said disabling module disables said equipment when said code is not in agreement with a reference code before a predetermined time exceeds a predetermined deadline.

20 35. The system of claim 34, wherein said disabling module enables said equipment when said code is in agreement with said predetermined reference code.

36. The system of claim 34, wherein said control module comprises:  
a comparator; and  
a reference code providing module, said comparator being operable for  
comparing a reference code with a received code, and  
5 said reference code providing module being operable for providing a  
plurality of reference codes to said comparator, wherein each reference code  
corresponds to a predetermined deadline, respectively.
- c 37. The system of claim 34, wherein said means for periodically receiving a  
code and transmitting said code is a user interface.
- 10 c 38. The system of claim 37, wherein said user interface is in electronic  
communication with said control module.
- c 39. The system of claim 34, wherein said means for periodically receiving a  
code and transmitting said code is an automatic system which operates without  
user input at the system.
- 15 40. The system of claim 37, wherein said user interface is a keypad which  
converts tactile input to digital code.
- c 41. The system of claim 39, wherein said automatic system includes a modem  
and telephone communication link.
- c 42. The system of claim 39, wherein said automatic system includes a radio  
20 frequency receiver.
- c 43. The system of claim 34, wherein said equipment is a vehicle.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein said disabling module disables an ignition system of said vehicle.
45. The system of claim 43, wherein said disabling module disables a fuel pump of said vehicle.
46. The system of claim 43, wherein said disabling module activates a brake system of said vehicle.
47. The system of claim 34, wherein said equipment is medical equipment.
48. The system of claim 34, wherein said equipment includes electrical components.
49. The system of claim 34, wherein said equipment includes mechanical components.

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